

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(currently amended):** A method for producing iturin A and its homologues, comprising cultivating a *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues in a liquid medium containing 2 % mass or more of soybean powder or its ~~extract~~defatted soybean powder, wherein said microbe produces iturin A and its homologues in the medium to a concentration of 1.5 g/L or more.
2. **(previously presented):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein said *Bacillus* microbe continues to grow when iturin A and its homologues are produced to a concentration of at least 1.5 g/L.
3. **(previously presented):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues is a *Bacillus* microbe that produces 50ppm or less of surfactin in the medium during cultivation.
4. **(previously presented):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein said microbe is cultivated in a medium containing 3 % mass or less of K_2HPO_4 .

5. **(previously presented):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis*.

6. **(previously presented):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

7. **(previously presented):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microbe is a mutant of *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

8. **(currently amended):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid medium containing 2 % mass or more of soybean powder or ~~its extract~~defatted soybean powder contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of maltose, starch syrup, soluble starch, dextrin, glucose, sucrose, and fructose.

9. **(previously presented):** A culture containing iturin A and its homologues obtained by the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein iturin A and its homologues are accumulated in the culture medium.

10. **(previously presented):** A solid containing iturin A and its homologues obtained by drying the culture as claimed in claim 9.

11. **(withdrawn):** An agent for preventing plant diseases, comprising the culture containing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 9 or solid thereof obtained by drying the culture.

12. **(withdrawn):** A method for preventing a plant disease, comprising using in an unpurified form the culture containing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 9 or solid thereof obtained by drying the culture.

13. **(withdrawn):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues is a *Bacillus* microbe that can grow in a medium containing 1.5 g/L or more of iturin A and its homologues.

14. **(withdrawn):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis*.

15. **(withdrawn):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 3, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis*.

16. **(withdrawn):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

17. **(withdrawn):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 3, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

18. **(withdrawn):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the microbe is a mutant of *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

19. **(withdrawn):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 3, wherein the microbe is a mutant of *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

20. **(withdrawn):** A culture containing iturin A and its homologues obtained by the method as claimed in claim 2 wherein iturin A and its homologues are accumulated in the culture medium.